

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



Air Power

Quote of the Week

“Air power is like poker. A second-best hand is like none at all.”

—George Kenney

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July 26, 2002

Texan II to replace Tweet by 2005

T-6 enhances training

By 2nd Lt. Jessica Miller
Public Affairs

Student pilots here will soon receive upgraded training when Laughlin receives its first operational T-6A Texan II aircraft later this year as part of the Air Force's Joint Primary Aircraft Training System.

“We get our first eight T-6As in November,” said Lt. Col. Robert Seaberg, Laughlin's Site Activation Task Force correspondent. “We won't see any more until March, at which point we



Photo by Dave Niebergall

T-6A sim over Laughlin

Jim DeGarmo, a Raytheon test pilot for ground based training systems, approaches Laughlin AFB in a T-6A Operational Flight Trainer simulator during an Air Force acceptance test.

T-37Bs sent to AMARC

By Staff Sgt. Matt Miller
Public Affairs

Deep among the vast Sonoran Desert lies a military cemetery known to many as the “bone yard.” The Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center is located at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and is home to more than 4,600 airplanes awaiting their fate – regeneration, reclamation, preservation or disposal.

Joining hundreds of “Phantoms,” “Eagles” and “Fighting Falcons” already

See ‘T-6A’ page 4

See ‘Tweet’ page 6



E/MSS: the 21st century pay system

Compiled from staff reports

Air Force members now have the ability to quickly access their pay record, update certain payroll information and more thanks to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's Employee/Member Self Service online.

E/MSS is DFAS' web initiative to provide more responsive service to payroll customers.

“It allows Air Force active-duty,

Reservist, Department of Defense civilian, retiree and annuitant members easy access to their pay information without having to fill out any paperwork or wait in lines,” said Master Sgt. Terry Hockless, chief of customer operations for the 47th ComptrollerFlight.

To do this, E/MSS uses both interactive voice response and Internet technologies. The user-friendly system

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the inside Scoop

Viewpoints:

The 87th Flying Training Squadron commander discusses three simple rules to the game of life.

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Grand jury indicts Air Force civilian employee for making bomb threats against base.

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Lifestyles:

First sergeant emergency fund, a project started by the base chapel, is available for airmen in need.

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Sports and Health:

Fitness center receives more than \$60,000 from AETC to improve equipment and facility.

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Commanders' Corner

By **Lt. Col. Jeff Ellis**
87th Flying Training Squadron Commander

Life: the easiest game in the world to play

As I started to think about writing my editorial this time I found that it was quite hard to identify a topic. After all, when you read the articles submitted to the commanders corner they are always replete with profound insight or direction on the way things should be.

I found that I had trouble coming up with a topic that would cover all the bases; insightful, entertaining, thought provoking and professional. Every time I started writing, I found I'd get about two paragraphs written and realize I wasn't writing any of the above. What I was doing was writing like a sanctimonious preacher.

So, I erased all of that drivel and just sat back and thought about

something that might be important, and the only thing that came to me is something my father used to tell me - "It's a simple game." Matter of fact, it's the easiest game in the world to play.

It takes no money, it doesn't require a membership, there is no entry fee, you don't play against anybody and you never really know if you win. The game has three simple rules: don't lie, honor your contracts and do your job. Sounds like a really simple game, doesn't it?

Never lying sounds pretty simple but in reality sometimes it takes a lot of intestinal fortitude to speak the truth no matter how painful it may be.

When I was a T-38 first assign-

ment instructor pilot at Williams Air Force Base, Ariz., Air Training Command headquarters maintained an opinion that "Willy" consistently inflated their daily grades compared to the other undergraduate pilot training bases. They didn't figure into the equation that maybe one day per year "Willy" had bad weather so, by default, flying continuity was superb and the grades would naturally be higher than the other bases.

Well, word got back to the squadron that during our operation readiness inspection, the standards and evaluation team was going to slaughter the T-38 squadron on in-

See 'Game,' page 3

Top Three Talk

By **Master Sgt. Ricky Harting**

47th Services Division plans and readiness superintendent



Air Force life opens numerous opportunities

I grew up in a small farming town in southwest Georgia and knew little about the Air Force other than two of my uncles made it a career. While talking with my uncle after graduation, I decided to join the Air Force. At that time, I saw it as a way to see the world and decided I would do a full 20 years.

I started off in the weather career field, but I wasn't really satisfied, so the Air Force decided to let me pick another career. I made the decision to become a food service specialist, yes a cook. After completing technical school at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., I was reassigned to Ellsworth AFB, S.D., as a missile field food specialist. I had two great supervisors that started my career and leadership foundation.

After three years in South Da-

kota, I was reassigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for four years and loved every minute of it. I was fortunate to be a member of a great team of people and to have outstanding unit leadership that made the assignment awesome.

While in Germany, I traveled as much as possible. The Air Force afforded my family the opportunity to see the world. I have seen Paris, sat on the Berlin Wall as it was being knocked down with hammers, visited the Pope at Vatican City, attended Oktoberfest and much more than I would have if had stayed in Georgia.

Over the years, my career field has changed in many ways due to Air Force reorganizations. I am no longer classified as a cook, now I am a services specialist, and to me one

of the most demanding and challenging career fields in the Air Force. We touch everyone on the base in one way or another.

When I raised my right hand, I knew the Air Force would be my career. I serve my country, am afforded great educational opportunities and have traveled the world.

Due to excellent supervisors who provided a solid career foundation, I have learned to always strive to do and make the best out of whatever situation comes about.

My philosophy is to always take care of my troops! My advice to our younger enlisted members is to stay in and take every opportunity offered you by the world's greatest Air Force. Do your job, take care of your customer, each other, and, again, take care of your troops.



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Submissions can be e-mailed to:
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***“Excellence –
not our goal,
but our
standard.”***

– 47th FTW motto

Defining moments help shape lives

By Chief Master Sgt. Tom Buchanan
355th Supply Squadron

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — An actor in the movie “Tin Cup” said the world is full of defining moments. The question is whether the moment will define you or you will define the moment.

Young leaders may not know this, but those defining moments are constantly happening. They are not always on such a large scale as the movie makes them out to be.

When a troop approaches you to talk about a personal problem but you’re too busy to talk, that is a defining moment. When you accept pats on the back for the job your shop did well, but blame your airmen when things go wrong, that is a defining moment.

Recent surveys claim that many airmen are leaving the service due to poor leadership. It usually wasn’t one big screw-up by a supervisor that made someone want to leave but many small defining moments.

If supervisors make the right choices during those moments, they can define themselves as leaders rather than having the moment define them as weak and ineffectual.

Being a good leader is a tough job, but it’s ful-

filling when done properly.

Putting a human approach into your decision-making process will always help you define the moment. Putting myself in their shoes usually helps me determine the right approach to take with subordinates.

I know there are times when you must tell someone “Go do that right now.” Later on, when time is not such a factor, take the time to explain why it was so important for that person to perform that task right away and thank the person for doing it well.

Who will work better for me? An airman who does what he or she is told because of the stripes on my arm or the airman who I have helped through many defining moments? If you have earned your leadership role through many small defining moments, your troops will do everything in their power not to let you down.

Defining moments happen every day. They may not be noticeable to you, but they may be to your troops.

Did you help them when they needed it? Did you give them a shoulder to cry on when a parent passed away? Did you kick them in the rear when they needed it?

Decisions you make everyday define you as a leader. Make your decisions count!

‘Game,’ from page 2

flated daily grades. One ingenious flight commander decided he would solve that problem, by going into the student gradebooks and erasing all of the recorded grades of every student in his flight and reducing the grades of every event. He was not going to let them say he inflated grades.

What the inspectors found was 15 safety-of-flight syllabus deviations generated by changing the grades. The squadron was unsatisfactory and the squadron commander, director of operations and flight commander found new jobs.

Honoring your contracts is another part of the game. Your word is your word and you need to deliver no matter how painful. The best example of honoring your contracts is air discipline. When you sign your name to a jet, you are giving your word that you will operate that aircraft in accordance with the regulations. It is absolutely astounding

how often this contract gets violated in the Air Force -- usually just for the sake of a good time.

When I was at Holloman AFB, N.M., some AT-38 guys used to play a game when they went cross country. It was called, “how low can you go.” Four jets line abreast with the flight lead who took the flight down to the deck. The first guy that chickened out on the altitude being flown bought the beer for the rest of the night.

Well, when they hit the power lines out in western New Mexico, they were lucky none of them died or lost an airplane. What they didn’t know is when they hit the lines, they cut off power to a mining operation and six miners ended up in extremely critical condition from breathing toxic air that was not being filtered because they lost power to the mine.

Do your job! Some jobs are good, some jobs are boring, some jobs are down right painful; just do your job to the best of your ability.

When I was promoted to

major, I was an F-15 instructor pilot at Tyndall AFB. I had been a flight commander, chief of academics and an assistant director of operations there at the schoolhouse as a captain, so I was thinking pretty big of myself. Well, the promotion list came out and I wasn’t selected to go to intermediate service school.

I was pretty upset and whined about it on the phone to my dad. All of a sudden I hear this loud and thunderous voice yelling back in the phone saying “Shut up.” It took me by surprise and I responded, “what?” He just repeated what he said and then added “just go do your job.”

I will never forget that lesson. It’s easy to get wrapped around the axle about your career, and its progression and what the next step is going to be, but that’s not why we are here.

It’s a simple game. Three rules that will challenge you your entire life, and the simplest part of the game is keeping score. All you have to do is look in the mirror!

Actionline 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven’t been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It’s also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.



Rick Rosborg
Col. Rick Rosborg
47th FTW Commander

BX delivery fees

Question: Why does the Base Exchange have to charge \$25 to \$35 to deliver appliances? Nobody else downtown charges anything. I would just like to know if other BX’s are charging a delivery cost or if it is just Laughlin’s BX.

Answer: Most Army Air Force Exchange Service facilities have a contractor delivery service. Charges start at \$55 and go up depending on the mileage and number of pieces to be delivered. Laughlin BX does not have a contractor and, to help defray cost of vehicle maintenance, personnel and gas, it charges \$25 up to 25 miles and \$35 for over 25 miles. There is no extra charge on the number of pieces delivered. At present, Laughlin charges less than a contractor would. Please feel free to contact the exchange manager at 298-3176 with any concerns.

Airmanship

Intended to help all airmen articulate the Air Force’s vision of aerospace power

What is the difference between integration and synchronization?

Integration stresses the coherent blending and management of different capabilities; synchronization stresses the management of actions where time is the most critical variable.

Civilian indicted for making bomb threats

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) — A grand jury recently indicted a base civilian employee on two counts relating to a bomb threat she allegedly made here.

Yolanda Aparicio, a wage-grade employee in the C-5 Galaxy maintenance division, was named in the indictment U.S. District Court officials handed down.

According to the indictment, Aparicio was charged with willfully threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction and for maliciously conveying false information re-

“Bomb threats are serious matters, particularly in light of the attacks that have taken place against the United States.”

-- Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
Warner Robbins ALC commander

garding the bomb threat. She allegedly made a written threat May 14, indicating a bomb was in a base building.

Agents from the Air Force Office of Special Investigations investigated the incident then handed the findings over to the

U.S. Attorney’s Office since the incident involved a civilian employee, said Capt. Michael Martin of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center staff judge advocate office.

“During the course of our investigation, one thing was clear from our interviews of Robins personnel,” said Darren Tillman, OSI Detachment 105 commander. “They felt betrayed and angered by the actions of one of their own, and they were eager to help us get to the bottom of it. I’m extremely grateful for the

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‘T-6A’ from page 1

get a steady trickle of two to five per month until we have 79 of them on the ramp by September 2004.”

But until then several T-6A simulators, which recently underwent the Air Force’s acceptance procedures, will help Laughlin and Lear Siegler instructors get prepared for the new plane.

If the simulators pass these tests, the Air Force will then purchase the simulators from Raytheon, the primary Joint Primary Aircraft Training System contractor for the T-6A Texan II.

Currently, Laughlin has six simulators: two operational flight trainers, two instrument flight trainers and two unit training devices. Laughlin will gain nine more over the next year during the phase out of the T-37 and the phase in of the T-6, said 1st Lt. Andrew Zinn, JPATS system programmer from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The operational trainers have top-of-the-line graphics projected on a curved screen that spans 270 degrees horizontally and 70 degrees vertically. Sitting in the cockpit, the student can see the wings of the jet and key visual references on the ground for overhead pattern practice at Laughlin.

Unlike the other simulators, the OFT allows students to practice formation flying. Instrument flight is practiced on the IFTs, which have a single screen with a limited view. The UTDs don’t have

A glimpse of the T-6A Texan II

The T-6A can fly at speeds in excess of 270 knots. Its certified ceiling is 31,000 feet and range is more than 900 nautical miles.

Because of its high thrust-to-weight ratio, the aircraft can perform an initial climb of 3,300 feet per minute and can reach 18,000 feet in less than six minutes. Its turbo-prop engine delivers 1,100 horsepower. The aircraft is fully aerobatic and has an anti-gravity system.

Some other advantages of the T-6A over the T-37 are quicker handling and faster maintenance turnaround. The new trainer has an expected service life of approximately 16,000 flying hours.



screens and are used for T-6 introduction, emergency procedures and instrument flying.

For all three simulators, the instructor sits at a computer, away from the cockpit but in the simulator, and controls the flight plan lesson for the student to simulate flying in.

The T-6 itself is an entry-level trainer and primary joint-service pilot training aircraft that will eventually replace Laughlin’s fleet of T-37 Tweets, said Colonel Seaberg.

“We’re excited to be getting the T-6,” said Lt. Col. Seaberg. “We expect this aircraft to enhance the competence and confidence of our student pilots. Our country’s security depends on it.”

The scheduled first class to train in the T-6 here is 04-04. When they hit the flightline, half will fly the new trainer and the other half will learn the Tweet. Split classes are planned until October 2003 when the first full class will fly the Texan II.

Newslines

American Legion meeting

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post 298 will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at The Barn across from Laughlin’s main gate.

New officers will be installed and the 2003 membership cards will be available for distribution.

All active-duty military personnel are eligible to join. The American Legion is the largest military and veterans voice on Capitol Hill.

For more information, call Murry Kachel at 298-2097.

Tobacco Cessation Course

The next Tobacco Cessation Course begins at 11:30 a.m., August 6, in the Health and Wellness Center.

For more information, call 298-6463 or 298-6464.

Bring your child to work

Bring Your Child to Work Day is scheduled for Aug. 9. It is a day for parents to show their children what they do on a daily basis and also to expand the children’s understanding of the type of work adults perform. A tour of the base for children 8 years and older is being offered. The tour is a supplement to unit activities, not a replacement.

Anyone interested in the tour or with more questions, call 298-5620 by close of business Aug. 6.

Retirement seminar

The Family Support Center is holding a free four-day retirement planning seminar from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sept. 17-20. Sixteen participants are needed by Aug. 16.

To reserve a space or for more information, call 298-5899.

Savings bonds

This year’s national savings bond campaign has come to an end, but savings bonds can still be purchased.

Bonds can be purchased at finance, local banks, on the internet and, in some cases, at super-market stores.

If you have any questions about savings bonds, see your squadron representative, or call 1st Lt. Michael Zwolve at 298-4344.

‘Tweet’ from page 1

there is Laughlin’s own “Tweet” – the venerable T-37B Tweet that is.

Over the next few years, the T-37, a 1950s Cessna-built, twin-engine jet, is being replaced here by the T-6A Texan II as part of the Air Force’s Joint Primary Aircraft Training System. This year alone, nine Laughlin Tweets will make the trip to AMARC while seven more are being salvaged locally for parts and materials.

“Two planes have already made the trip to AMARC, while one per week will be transferred

through September,” said Mark Hewitt, deputy director of maintenance here. “Our entire fleet of T-37s is scheduled to leave Laughlin, in one form or another, by the end of 2004.”

Currently, there are around 100 T-37s at AMARC awaiting future action, said Tech. Sgt. Rian Clawson, AMARC Public Affairs.

“AMARC doesn’t actually own the aircraft that come in here,” he said. “We preserve the planes for whatever the owner has requested and make them available for future use.”

In the case of these

T-37s, Air Education and Training Command will determine their future while Laughlin makes room for the Texan II. But the transition to the T-6A means more to Team XL members than enhanced training. For maintenance members, it means more training and a change in the way of doing everyday business.

“The T-37 is an extremely tough airplane. Some have been flying around here for more than 20,000 hours,” said Jess Raley, chief of maintenance support here. “Even though the Tweet will be here a while longer, it’s tough to see these planes go.”

Despite receiving hands-on training from Raytheon Aircraft Co. instructors, there will be a definite learning curve while the aircraft is transitioned.

“As with any new aircraft, there will be some growing pains associated with the T-6,” said Raley. “(Operating instructions) will be rewritten several times, parts and systems will be changed and enhanced, and equipment will be updated before we get into a steady state of maintaining the T-6. But I think the benefits will

outweigh those pains.”

“I’m excited,” said Bob Marsh, a T-37 maintenance scheduler. “The T-6 should save our maintenance folks time and money.”

Operationally, the T-6A takes the Air Force capabilities beyond those of the T-37 – not to mention being quieter and more fuel-efficient. But in the meantime, Laughlin residents shouldn’t expect the ring of the Tweet to disappear, because, at least for the near future, the T-37 will continue to gas up and roar down Team XL’s runways.



Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Andy Dunaway

Up, up, and away...

A T-37 Tweet aircraft from the 85th Fighter Training Squadron here flies over Lake Amistad during a training mission. The T-37 Tweet is a twin-engine jet currently used for training undergraduate pilots, undergraduate navigator and tactical navigator students in fundamentals of aircraft handling, and instrument, formation and night flying. Nine Tweets will be transferred to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., to await their fate – regeneration, reclamation, preservation or disposal. The T-37 is being replaced by the T-6A Texan II.

Base welcomes new wing legal staff chief

Compiled from staff reports

A new wing staff agency chief recently joined Team XL.

Maj. Franziska Chopp took over as the 47th Flying Training Wing judge advocate general on July 15.

Hometown: Satellite Beach, Fla.

Time in service: Almost 11 years

Education: Bachelor of science from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.; Juris Doctorate from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

Previous assignments: Grissom Air Force Base, Ind.; MacDill AFB, Fla.; Rhein Mein, Germany; McGuire AFB, N.J.; Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Greatest feat: My husband and my two sons

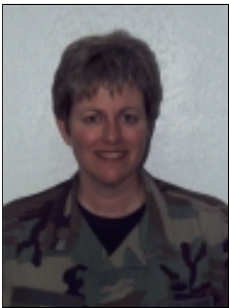
Leadership philosophy: Lead by example and take care of your people

Personal hero: My father, he always did the “right thing” no matter how difficult or unpopular. He was a true man of integrity.

Favorite quote: “Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens.”
-- Jimi Hendrix

Hobbies: First, spending quality time with my family. I also enjoy hiking, biking, dressage and scrap booking.

Bad habit: I plead the fifth!



Chopp

Thinking about getting out? Think again!

Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.



Laughlin Salutes

Quarterly award winners

Airman

♦ Senior Airman Brad Pettit, 47th Flying Training Wing

Noncommissioned officer

♦ Tech Sgt. Guy Wells, 47th Support Group

Senior noncommissioned officer

♦ Master Sgt. James Martin, 47th Support Group

Company grade officer

♦ Capt. Mark Barrera, 87th Flying Training Squadron

Civilian category I

♦ Diana Almaraz, 47th Operations Group

Civilian category II

♦ Anthony McKinney,

47th Medical Group

Civilian category III

♦ Charles Robertson, 47th Operations Group

NAF category I

♦ Kelvia Marrufo, 47th Support Group

Instructor pilot

♦ Capt. Byron Calhoun, 87th Flying Training Squadron

Volunteer

♦ Janetta Hockless, 47th Support Group

Health and safety

contributor

♦ Capt. Brian Eberling, 85th Flying Training Squadron

Honor guard member

♦ Staff Sgt. Leslie Werlinger, 47th Medical Group

Mission complete: SUPT Class 02-12 graduates today

Compiled from staff reports

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 02-12 graduates at 10 a.m. today in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

The 52-week SUPT program

prepares student pilots for the spectrum of Air Force aircraft and flying missions.

Training begins with three weeks of physiological and academic training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine,

subsonic T-37 "Tweet."

After primary training, the future pilots are selected for advanced in-flight training in a specialized track.

The tracks include tanker and cargo aircraft training in the T-1 aircraft; fighter/bomber training in the

T-38; turbo propeller aircraft training in the Navy's T-44; and helicopter training in the Army's UH-1. Advanced training in a track takes about 26 weeks.

Graduates of Class 02-12 have been assigned to aircraft at duty stations throughout the world.



1st Lt. Christopher Barth
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.
Class leader



1st Lt. David Boytim
C-5, Dover AFB, Del.
Assistant class leader



1st Lt. David Brown
KC-135, McDill AFB, Fla.



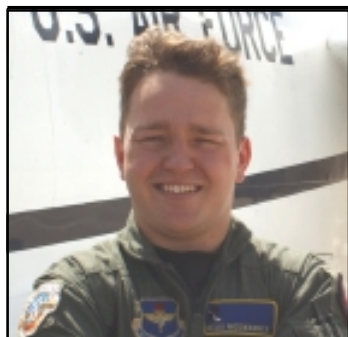
1st Lt. Larry Gabe
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



1st Lt. Nathan Glavich
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



1st Lt. Kei Mizuno
T-2, Japan



1st Lt. Beau Nicewanner
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



1st Lt. David Och
F-15E, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C.



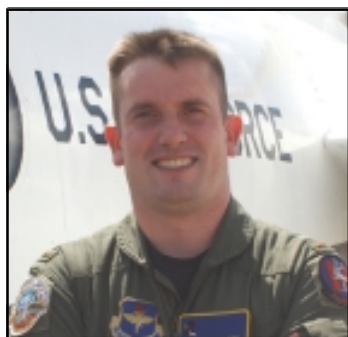
1st Lt. Nathan Schauer mann
C-9, Yokota AB, Japan



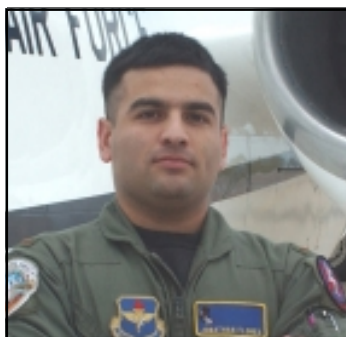
1st Lt. Jim Stokman
T-37, Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Garret Bilbo
T-1, Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Michael Crook
KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J.



2nd Lt. Johnathan Flores
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Andrew Foss
KC-135, McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn. (ANG)



2nd Lt. Denis Frisbee II
KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J. (AFRES)



2nd Lt. Michael Koehl
F-16, Fort Wayne, Ind. (ANG)



2nd Lt. Christopher Lake
A-10, Baltimore, Md. (ANG)



2nd Lt. Tiffany Marquart
C-130, Dyess AFB, Texas



2nd Lt. Christopher Melton
C-5, Lackland AFB, Texas (AFRES)



2nd Lt. Edward Yonce Jr.
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.

‘E/MSS’ from page 1

make changes directly to their own pay accounts in a secure electronic environment.

Users access the system using their social security number and personal identification number.

“Customers using E/MSS gain greater control over their pay account,” said Master Sgt. Hockless. “One of the most popular features of the system allows users to view/print leave and earnings statements on-line, a handy feature for temporary duty travelers and those on leave!”

Users also have the option to end the hardcopy delivery of their LES. Other features of the system allow users to change their direct deposit/electronic funds transfer and federal tax changes.

“While some features of

the system are common for all users, detail capabilities exist based on the customers status,” said Master Sgt. Hockless.

For example, military members may sign up for the thrift savings plan and make changes during the open enrollment seasons using E/MSS.

DFAS is constantly making upgrades to the system based on customer use and input.

Future enhancements coming soon will allow military members to make address and allotment changes and permit local finance offices to reset personal identification numbers.

But the word about E/MSS features and ease of use is starting to spread around Laughlin.

“This Web site, com-

Current E/MSS capabilities

Active Duty

- Federal tax changes (people can make changes to items such as marital status and exemptions).
- Change or establish direct deposit or electronic fund transfer.
- View and print leave and earnings statements (after doing this, people can also cancel their hardcopy delivery).
- Thrift Savings Plan

Civilian Employees

- Federal and state tax changes
- Direct Deposit/EFT
- Allotments

- Home address changes
- Savings bonds (people can make changes to their allotment)
- View and print leave and earnings statements.
- W-2

Military Retirees and Annuitant Capabilities

- Federal and state tax changes
- Direct Deposit/EFT
- Allotments (except annuitants)
- Home address changes
- Savings bonds
- 1099 tax statement

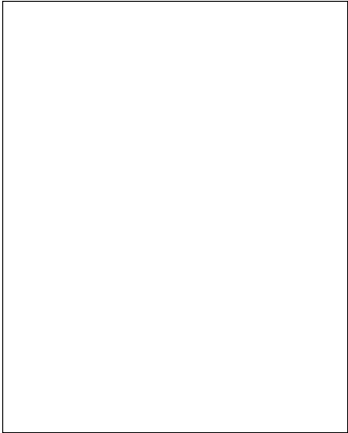
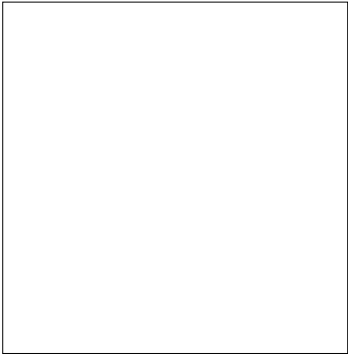
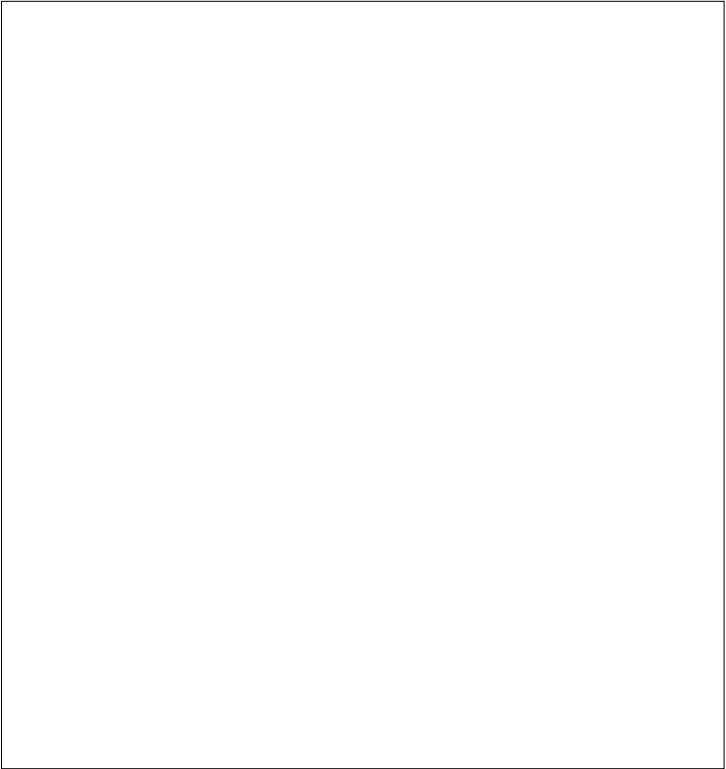
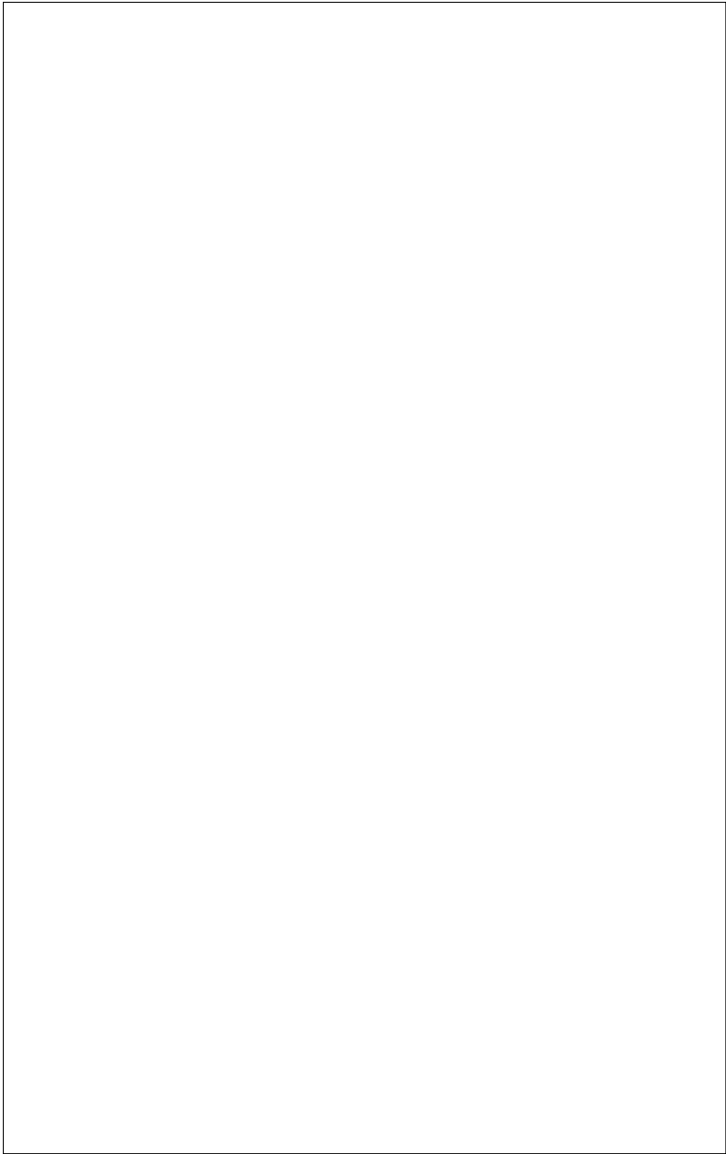
bined with electronic deposit, is the best way I know to track my LES and have a ‘fail-safe’ paycheck,” said Col. Charles Hardin, 47th Medical Group commander. “With my recent permanent change of station, and the resultant pay changes, E/MSS was a great way to find out five days ahead of pay day what was going to be available to pay the bills.”

For people wanting to use E/MSS, a PIN is required to access the system. For those who have not received a PIN, a signed written request is required. To request a PIN, fax a front copy of your ID card (those with new IDs must write their social security number on the request) to (216) 522-5800 or DSN 580-5800. All requests should include a daytime phone num-

ber. The PIN will be set within two business days. On initial use, the system will prompt the user to change the PIN.

Internet users can access E/MSS at <https://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm> or through the Laughlin FM page at www.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/cptf/MilPay.htm.

For more information, call E/MSS at 1-877-DOD-EMSS (1-877-363-3677) or (478) 757-3119 or finance customer service at 298-5139 or 298-5215.



‘Threat’ from page 4

cooperation we received from the people of Team Robins, who were instrumental in helping us close this investigation.”

Base leadership was pleased with how quickly the incident was investigated and an indictment was handed down.

“Bomb threats are serious matters, particularly in light of the attacks that have taken place against the United States,” said Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, Warner Robins ALC commander. “Our greatest concern is the safety of the work force.

“We must do everything within our power to provide a safe environment where employees can concentrate on the extremely important work they do in the war on terrorism,” he said. “We do not take these kinds of incidents lightly.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Harry Fox Jr., lead prosecutor in the case, said the maximum sentence for making threats against the U.S. government or its facilities is life imprisonment. The second charge, classified as a threat to interstate commerce, carries a maximum 10-year sentence.

Fox said both violations carry a maximum \$250,000 fine. The actual sentences or fines will be determined after the trial, he said.

If you know of or suspect
**Fraud,
Waste and
Abuse,**
call the FWA
hotline at 298-
4170.

The mercury has risen. Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water!



(Clockwise from above) Staff Sgt. Jerome Smith uses Air Force base reference standards to calibrate the standard resistor test equipment used by precision measurement equipment laboratory to maintain and test items at Laughlin.

Staff Sgt. Rodney Robison wears cotton gloves to keep everything clean while calibrating a special controller used to set air pressure gauges and make sure readings are within tolerance standards.

Airman 1st Class Anna Rodriguez prepares certification labels for tools and test equipment sent to other work centers on base. The labels tell each

user when the items must be calibrated.

Senior Airman James White uses special equipment to test and calibrate a heavy-duty torque wrench. The process also requires humidity and temperature control in the PMEL lab to assure every torque wrench used at Laughlin provides accurate readings.

Staff Sgt. Alan Garcia replaces part of a circuit on a digital oscilloscope after troubleshooting the item. Once repaired, recalibrated and certified, the scope will be returned to the maintenance line shop for use.

Blue suiters reappear

Story and photos by Jim Teet
Public Affairs

Laughlin aircraft maintainers continue to set trends – this time they’ve reversed an Air Force trend by bringing blue suiters back here after a 13-year hiatus.

“Rebluing” aircraft maintenance means 14 enlisted precision measurement equipment laboratory specialists have arrived here during the past year. These PMEL specialists maintain and certify test equipment that is used to repair aircraft equipment and tools.

While this sounds like simple maintenance, a closer look re-

veals that PMEL is extremely complex. The items these specialists work on range from weight scales and torque wrenches to frequency generators and digital oscilloscopes. And, they don’t just use them, they maintain and calibrate them for all maintenance functions at Laughlin.

This actually is a science known as metrology, or weights and measurement standards. Qualified civilian metrology specialists are difficult to find and attract to Laughlin and similar remote areas.

Despite several years of civilian personnel recruiting efforts, Laughlin was unable to maintain



in maintenance after 13-year absence

strict standards required by PMEL auditors.

The best answer was to bring military metrology experts back into the local maintenance arena. Initially, this was done with temporary manning assistance, and Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Stuart was among the first to arrive in May 2001. He volunteered to remain permanently and now is responsible for PMEL quality assurance.

Robert Wood, Laughlin Director of Maintenance, said, "We are very proud to have the military PMEL specialists on our team. These professionals did a magnificent job of turning our lab around and they will ensure quality customer satisfaction for the future."

Master Sgt. Daniel Kjolhede manages Laughlin's PMEL. His

lab chief is Tech. Sgt. Robert Harrell. They and the other specialists are graduates of what is called the most demanding enlisted technical course in the Air Force.

These metrology specialists make sure that each piece of measuring equipment is accurate. A single piece of equipment may be used by several different organizations, but each user must be confident that the equipment is giving an accurate reading.

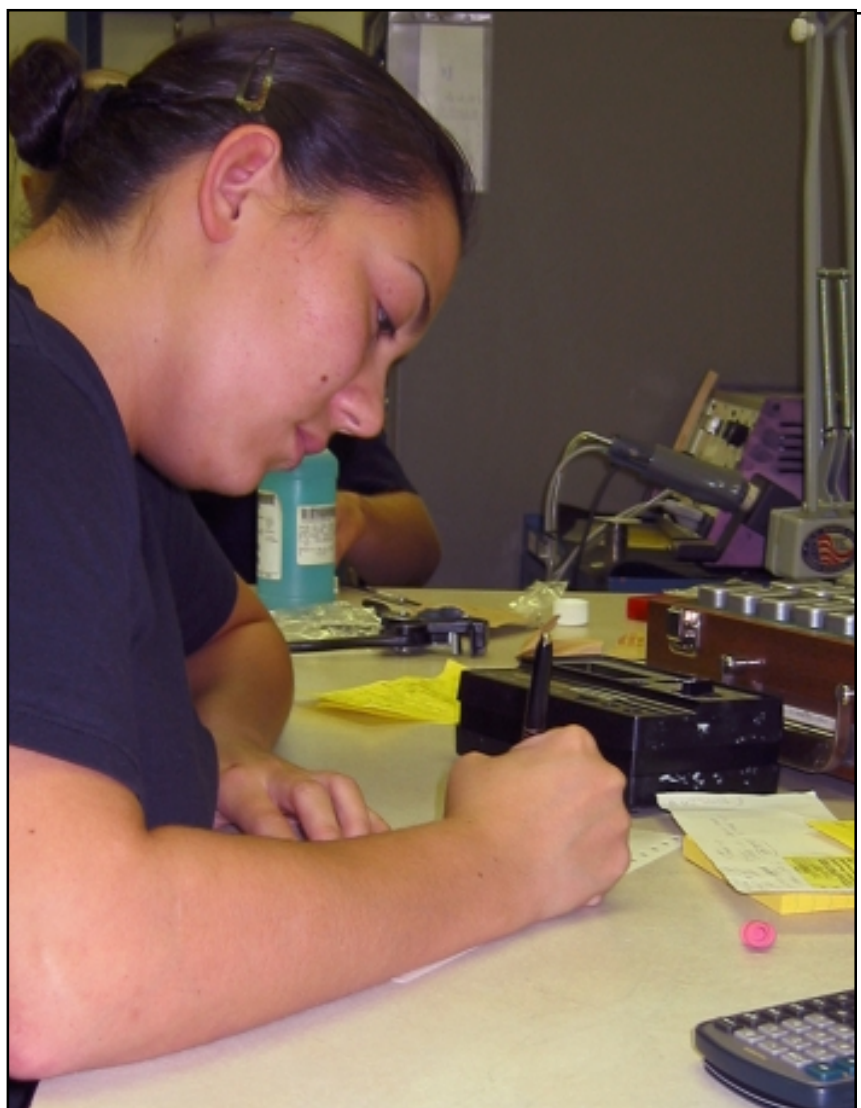
Each of these critical measuring devices has a certification label to show it is accurate and when it needs to be recalibrated.

For instance, PMEL ensures that a scale to weigh people is accurate at every weight; that a frequency generator correctly sets radio channel frequencies in each aircraft; that pressure

gauges show the correct air pressure in aircraft tires; and that a critical nut on a T-38 engine really is tightened to 75 foot pounds so it won't work

loose with engine vibrations.

This is the responsibility of PMEL, now done proudly and thoroughly by the newest blue suiters at Laughlin.



Thinking about getting out? Think again!
Call the career assistance adviser at 298-5456 for guidance.

Executive order helps airmen gain citizenship

By Staff Sgt. Matt Miller
Public Affairs

There are currently more than 3,000 active-duty men and women honorably serving in Air Force blue who are not putting their country first — yet their devotion to the United States is unwavering.

These folks who are not serving their country are registered immigrant aliens, and thanks to an executive order announced July 4 by President Bush, the wait to become American citizens is now a lot shorter.

The order waives the three-year wait to apply for aliens who hold a “green card” and have been serving in the military since Sept. 11.

For one Laughlin airman, becoming a U.S. citizen fits right into her Air Force goals.

“I originally joined the Air Force to pursue an education,” said Airman 1st Class Ronette McBean, a contracting specialist with the 47th Contracting Squadron and citizen of Guyana, South America. “The Air Force is allowing me to get an education and have a career at the same time.”

Ronette came to the U.S. with her family when she was 7 years old, calling Brooklyn, N.Y., home.

“I have lived most of my life in the states and even graduated from high school in Brooklyn,” she said. “But every time I’ve started the naturalization process something’s come up.”

Ronette made her decision to join the Air Force after seeing her brother cross into the blue. She’s been in for nearly a year and a half and now has aspirations of becoming an officer.

“I need to get my degree first, but I am exploring the idea of becoming an officer,” she said.

Ronette also needs to get her citizenship because non-U.S. citizens are not allowed to re-enlist or become an officer without exceptional waivers, according to personnel officials.

“I have already applied to become a citizen and will interview in September,” she said. “I think it’s a good idea to waive the time rule for those serving in the military.”

With the help of the president’s executive order, many other immigrant aliens not serving their country will also have the opportunity to directly support the war on terrorism and who knows, maybe achieve their American dreams.

“I don’t know what will happen in the future, but I thank the Air Force for giving me these opportunities,” Ronette said.

For more information about the executive order or citizenship, call Master Sgt. Timothy Adkins at 298-5244 or Freda Borders at 298-5828.

**Help the environment, please
recycle this newspaper.**

Chapel Schedule



Catholic

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass
Sunday ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
● 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall
Thursday ● 6 p.m., Choir
Tuesday-Friday ● 12:05 p.m., Mass
● 12:05 p.m. and 7 p.m., Holy Days of Obligation
Reconciliation ● Before Sunday Mass, Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. and by appointment
Religious Education

- 11 a.m. and noon Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Services

Protestant

- Saturday* ● 6 p.m., Singles Bible study, in chapel annex; food is served
Sunday ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school for all ages in chapel annex
● 11 a.m., General worship
● 6 p.m., Officer Christian Fellowship
Wednesday ● 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

For more information on chapel events and services, call 298-5111.

The XLer



Photo by Airman Timothy Stein

Jesse Valdez

47th Civil Engineer Squadron furniture management specialist

Hometown: Eagle Pass, Texas
Family: Daughter, Selena
Time at Laughlin: 10 months
Time in service: Served four years in the Marine Corps
Greatest accomplishment: Honorably completing four years as a Marine
Hobbies: Playing all types of sports and collecting cards
Bad habit: Leaving my keys in the ignition
Favorite film: Full Metal Jacket
Favorite musician: The Garcia Brothers
If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? My daughter, because it makes me feel special spending time with her and being a positive role model to her.

Tricare For Life eligibility deadline extends to Sept. 1

The Department of Defense has announced that the deadline for beneficiaries to update their eligibility in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and remain eligible for Tricare For Life is extended until Sept. 1, 2002.

After Sept. 1, claims for beneficiaries who are not shown as eligible in DEERS will be denied and will no longer be sent electronically from Medicare to Tricare for payment. These beneficiaries will be responsible for paying for services that Medicare does not cover.

Claims received for beneficiaries with expired eligibility will continue to be denied until their eligibility information is updated. By law, DoD must take back payments made for ineligible persons.

Since the initial Aug. 1, deadline for updating expired eligibility DoD has received health care claims for more than 40,000 TFL beneficiaries with expired eligibility, of which almost 19,000 have updated their eligibility.

Approximately 4,000 lost their Tricare eligibility due to events such as divorce from a military retiree, remarriage of a widow, or death. Nearly 17,000 beneficiaries, how-

ever, have not responded to mailings from DoD urging them to update their eligibility in DEERS so they may use TFL.

DoD launched a campaign in March to reach this “hard-to-find” population and inform them of their new TFL benefits and what they needed to do to ensure their eligibility was up to date. The Defense Manpower Data Center, which oversees DEERS, mailed individual letters to beneficiaries and explained how to update their eligibility information and expired uniformed services identification cards.

“We urge beneficiaries to contact DMDC and update their eligibility in DEERS so they may continue to take advantage of this incredible benefit. We want to ensure that they have every opportunity to update their eligibility and use TFL,” explained Dr. William Winkenwerder,

the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, on the deadline extension.

TFL beneficiaries who need to update or reverify eligibility, or beneficiaries who have received an Explanation of Benefits stating that they need to update their eligibility, should contact the nearest ID card facility for assistance.

Beneficiaries also may call the DoD Benefits Reverification Telephone Center at 1-800-361-2620.

For more information about TFL, interested persons may visit the Tricare Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/tfl or call the Worldwide Tricare Information Center toll-free at 1-877-363-5433.

(Courtesy of Air Force Retiree News)

What is Tricare For Life?

Tricare For Life:

When beneficiaries become entitled to Medicare Part A following their 65th birthday and purchase Medicare Part B, they now experience no break in Tricare coverage. The only change is that Tricare will pay secondary to Medicare.

Eligibility:

Medicare-eligible uniformed service retirees, retired guard and reservists
Medicare-eligible family members, including widows/widowers, certain former spouses if they were eligible for Tricare before age 65

Cost:

There are no enrollment fees for Tricare For Life. Beneficiaries are required to enroll in Medicare Part B and must pay

Medicare Part B monthly fees.

Benefits:

Services payable by both Medicare and Tricare -- Medicare pays first and the remaining out-of-pocket expenses will be paid by Tricare.

Services payable by Tricare only -- Tricare pays the same as those under age 65.

Services payable by Medicare only -- Medicare pays as usual, but Tricare pays nothing.

Military treatment facilities:

Beneficiaries using Tricare For Life may continue to receive care in military treatment facilities. Under a new program, Tricare Plus, beneficiaries may be allowed to enroll at a military treatment facility for primary care.

‘Girl genius’ receiving Air Force commission

MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, Calif. – Joyce Lippe, 17, already has a bachelor’s degree in biology and is ready for commissioning as an officer in the Air Force.

Though not yet old enough to vote, she is on her way to becoming a doctor and will become a second lieutenant Aug. 8, her 18th birthday, during a ceremony at the University of Arizona.

She has already accomplished more than most people her age but she is not done yet. Joyce, following a lifelong dream of becoming a doctor, shopped around for scholarships to help offset medical school expenses before meeting Tech. Sgt. Malcolm Hawkins, an Air Force recruiter, nearly two years ago.

“I met Sergeant Hawkins when he went to the Medical Professions Career Fair at the University of Arizona,” Joyce said. “He was entranced in a conversation with another young man interested in joining the Air Force. I didn’t want to disturb him, so I just grabbed a business card and called him the next day.”

Hawkins recalls the first time he spoke with Joyce. He thought someone was playing a practical joke on him.

“I remember one afternoon sitting in my office doing paperwork when I got the call,” Hawkins said. “I did the preliminary questions to find out if she was eligible, and I remember asking her, ‘How old are you?’ She said, ‘I’m 15.’ I almost fell out of my chair. Then I started thinking that someone in the squadron was yanking my leg. But I decided to go with it.

“She said she wanted to come down and talk to me about the Air Force so I figured I’d call the bluff,” Hawkins said. “I told her because of her age, she needed a legal guardian to accompany her. She didn’t hesitate to agree and came to my office the next day.”

Amidst chuckles from Hawkin’s co-workers, the young lady, along with her mother, came down to the Air Force recruiting office.

“I remember the first time mama and I were in his office,” Joyce said. “We grilled him for two straight hours about the Air Force. We knew there had to be drawbacks, but there weren’t any. At the time, I’d never considered the Air Force, but now I get to do something that I love and serve my country at the same time.”

But cutting through the barriers was not easy. Preliminary physicals and eligibility paperwork could not be completed for two years, until she turned 17 years old.

In the week following her 17th birthday, Joyce got her physical and completed all the required steps to become an officer in the Air Force.

In the years following their initial meeting, Hawkins continued to update Joyce’s status with Air Force Recruiting Service officials. New people at the AFRS thought he was kidding, according to Hawkins.

“(They were) in disbelief,” Hawkins said. “Not only had Lippe graduated from college by the time she was 17, but also [she] never had lower than an A-grade in any class she took. Schools would call her to verify her age. At headquarters, we have everyone awaiting transition into active duty on reports. That helps keep the leadership abreast of their status. In every report we’d print, every laundry list of applicants awaiting entry, Lippe’s name appears, but hers is the only one with an asterisk next to it saying, ‘17 year old.’”

Joyce has made a habit of accomplishing feats early. At 2, she

lost her father in a helicopter accident. She began to beg her mother to teach her how to read.

“I wanted to read, I wanted to do math,” said Joyce. “Every day I would come home and throw temper tantrums because they wouldn’t teach me in daycare. My mother was a veteran of 32 years teaching elementary school. She created her own teaching program, and from that I learned to read in three weeks. After seeing that, she decided to home school me with the help of my grandparents.”

By 13, she had earned an associate of arts degree in liberal studies and by age 14 she was a full-time student at Arizona State University where she graduated with her bachelor of science in biology at 17. Joyce graduated summa cum laude with a grade point average of 4.0 and was a member of the National Dean’s List.

Being at the top was nothing new for Joyce. When she was at Central Arizona College she also had a GPA of 4.0, was named valedictorian and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the International Honor Society.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)



Photo by Staff Sgt. William Greer

Packin’ a wallop

Senior Airmen Shaun Wheat (left) and Joseph Fletcher, both explosive ordnance disposal technicians, place C4 explosives on 40 mm grenades that have been marked for destruction after being deemed unserviceable. The airmen, from the 438th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, are at a forward-deployed location supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

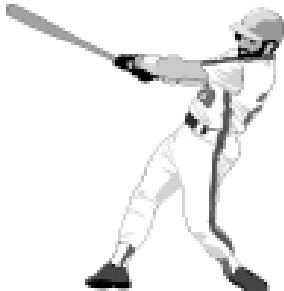
Softball standings

American League

OSS 1	8-2
86th FTS	6-4
LCSAM 1	5-5
87th FTS	4-5
84/85 FTS	3-6
Trend western	0-12

National League

Med Group	8-0
CES	7-1
LSI	6-1
CCS	5-4
SFS	4-4
LCSAM 2	1-6
OSS 2	2-10



Softball Schedule

Monday

7 p.m. 84/85 vs Med Gp
8 p.m. LCS 1 vs LCS 2
9 p.m. 86th vs SFS

Tuesday

7 p.m. OSS vs LCSAM 2
8 p.m. 84/85 vs CES
9 p.m. 86th vs LSI

Wednesday

7 p.m. OSS 1 vs LCSAM
8 p.m. 87th vs CCS
9 p.m. CES vs LSI

Recycle

Golf standings

Teams	Points won
Comm	45.5
LSI	38.5
Med Group	35
87th	34
LCSAM	33
86th	28.5
84/85th	16
OSS	15.5
CES	11
SPS	7



XL Fitness Center hours

Monday – Friday:
5 a.m. to midnight

Saturday – Sunday:
9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Holidays:
10 a.m to 6 p.m.

Air Force Marathon
Sept. 21
sign up at
www.afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil

AETC gives money to fitness centers, Laughlin to receive new equipment

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE – Thanks to a program focusing on quality of life issues, Air Education and Training Command is spending \$1.88 million to improve fitness programs at 14 bases, including Laughlin.

“This money will go a long way in improving fitness and help AETC provide a quality product to our people,” said Gen. Donald G. Cook, AETC Commander.

Laughlin will receive \$67,000 to purchase new treadmills and recumbent bikes, said 2nd Lt. Travis Logsdon, 47th Comptroller Flight financial analysis officer. The new equipment won’t be purchased for a few months.

The Focus Project began in January when General Cook asked the AETC wing commanders to evaluate their needs and to develop a comprehensive “wish list” of projects that improve the quality of life for their people at work, home and play.

Once these lists were received, a focused approach was used to find a common denominator among all the requests. That common thread was the need to update, repair and revitalize fitness areas.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matt Miller

Carrie Jones, a Laughlin family member, works out on a life cycle at the Fitness Center Thursday. Jones was excited to learn about the new equipment and said it will fit into her daily workout routine.

Projects range from resurfacing running tracks to overhauling air conditioning systems in World War II-era hangars currently used as fitness centers.

“Fitness is a top priority for our combat-ready force,”

General Cook added. “Anything we can do to ensure physical fitness for our people means we’re one step closer to ensuring we remain the best air and space force in the world.”

(Courtesy of AETC News)

Air Force marathon plans on track

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Plans for the annual Air Force marathon are on track as the date for the race approaches. With more than 1,600 runners registered for the Sept. 21 event, the race will likely break all previous participation records, said marathon officials.

Runners of all ages, military and civilian, are encouraged to participate. All runners will receive a 2002 Air Force Marathon T-shirt and patch. All participants who finish the marathon within the eight-hour time limit will receive a medallion.

Pre-race events include a two-day sports

and fitness expo at the Hope Hotel and Conference Center here on Sept. 19 and 20, sponsored by marathon organizers. Vendors will display a variety of sports apparel, equipment and memorabilia at the event.

After the race, all runners, volunteers, family and friends are invited to a free post-race party sponsored by the conference center beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the hotel.

More information on the annual Air Force Marathon, including registration procedures, is available on the marathon Web site www.afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)